URBAN DISTRICT OF CONSETT.

Interim Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Years 1940 & 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Consett Urban District Council:-

1940.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health this is an interim report for the years under review, full records being preserved until the end of the War. On the whole the population appears to be remarkably healthy notwithstanding rationing, strain and hard work brought about by War conditions, and whilst no easy optimism should permit any relaxation of standards for guarding the public health, we have much to be thankful for.

The death-rate 12.6 is about the same as last year and the infant mortality rate, always a more sensitive index is definitely lower, 59.1 compared with 72.3. The Zymotic death-rate (principal infectious diseases) is only half that of the previous year, 0.21 against 0.40. It is true that measles was epidemic and to a less extent whooping cough also. Together they accounted for 1,439 of the notifications of infectious disease which totalled 1,586, but only 3 deaths were caused by these infections.

Para-typhoid was the cause of an outbreak in mid-year, but fortunately it was soon under control and no deaths ensued. The other chief infectious diseases showed a great decline, scarlet fever 28 cases against 54 and diphtheria 10 cases against 73. Immunisation against the latter disease was on a small scale owing to the pressure of Civil Defence Work. Arrangements were in hand at the end of the year to re-open the Campaign in 1941.

The tuberculosis death-rate was one of the lowest recorded. Another pleasing feature was that no deaths occurred from puerperal sepsis.

Considerable attention was paid to water supplies and an inspection of the district was made with regard to supplementary supplies if they are needed.

The completion of the new Sewage Works is a marked public health improvement a nd the conversion schemes that it will make possible will be pressed for as early as opportunity permits.

Food supplies, particularly meat supplies have been kept under supervision a nd in the latter case 100 per cent inspection was attained, a feat which is only possible under centralised slaughtering.

In Civil Defence activities much has been done with regard to the training of paid and volunteer personnel, totalling some 286 in the ambulance service, first aid parties, mobile and fixed first aid posts, food decontamination, cleansing centres etc., and it is with gratitude and pride that I take this opportunity of expressing the debt we owe to all concerned, particularly members of your staff who have so cheerfully borne the extra burdens imposed on them as part of their contribution to the national cause.

1941.

Owing to the late date at which it was possible to deal with the 1940 report, it was further delayed until the 1941 figures were available and the two reports combined. Again a satisfactory year from the health standpoint is reviewed. The Vital Statistics are satisfactory and in some cases are better than in the preceding year. Much the same can be said of routine Civil Defence Work as in 1940 and considerable time and pains have been spent in training the personnel to a pitch of efficiency that will enable them to give good service if the necessity arises.

There was a considerable decrease in the notification of infectious diseases largely due to a fall in the incidence of measles.

The campaign for diphtheria immunisation was pressed during the year and a fair amount of success attained. Scabies and impetigo are prevalent in the district and following the receipt of the "Scabies Order 1941" inquiries were instituted with a view to dealing with this problem, which at the time of writing is being dealt with.

Harmonious co-operation exists between the staffs of the emergency hospitals, military and other forces in any way in which our services can assist them or their services assist us in emergency.

Again I thank all members of the Health Staff and those whole and part-time members of the Civil Defence Services for a year of progress.

The assistance of the Clerk to the Council and the Staffs of other departments is gratefully acknowledged.

The work of the Health Department has suffered to some extent, but not to cause any serious set-back and the foundations are being maintained and strengthened so that when the days of Peace are here again, we and those who follow can build and maintain a healthier and happier Consett.

The support of the Chairman and all Members of the Council has been a constant source of encouragement during this trying period.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

J. G. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1942.

Health Department,
Consett U.D.Council,
Council Offices,
LEADGATE.

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Interim Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Years ending December 31st. 1940 & 1941.

Summary of General & Vital Statistics.	YEAR. 1940	1941
Area in Acres	9,840	9,840
Population (Census 1931)	38,046	38,046
Population (Mid-Year)	37,070	37,070
Number of Inhabited Houses according to rate books	10,220	10,200
Unreduced rateable value	£197,683	£197,627
Reduced rateable value	£156,869	£158,070
Sum represented by a penny rate	£590	£601
Births during the year	676	639
Birth-rate	18.2	17.2
Deaths during the year	469	409
Crude death-rate	12.6	11.0
Areal comparability death-rate	14.6	12.7
Infantile Mortality rate	59.1	66.9
Tuberculosis death-rate	0.43	0.51
Pulmonary tuberculosis death-rate	0.30	0.41
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis death-rate	0,13	0.10
Zymotic death-rate	0.21	0.11

Special Causes of Sickness.

Year 1940. (1) An apidemic of measles was prevalent and 1,343 cases were notified. (2) An increase in the prevalence of whooping cough and (3) an outbreak of para-typhoid fever.
Year 1941. There were no outstanding causes of sickness during the year.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births	Legitimate	Males	322	319
" "	"	Females	334	296
		Total	656	615
" "	Illegitimate	Males	9	12
" "	"	Females	11	12
		Total	20	24
Total Live Births Legitimate and Illegitimate			676	639
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			18.2	17.2
Still Births	Legitimate	Males	13	19
" "	"	Females	7	1
		Total	20	20
" "	Illegitimate	Males	Nil	3
" "	"	Females	1	Nil
		Total	1	3
Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still) births			30.1	34.7
Deaths from all causes		Males	248	227
" " " "		[illegible]les	221	182
		Total	469	409
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			12.6	11.0
Deaths from Puerperal Causes -				
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis			Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes			2	5
Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still) births			2.87	7.55

	YEAR. 1940	1941
Death-rate of infants under one year of age		
All infants per 1,000 live births	59.1	66.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	60.9	69
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " "	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	47	44
" " Measles "	2	1
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1
Population estimated by Registrar General	37,070	37,100

Causes of Deaths in Consett Urban District.

	1940 M	1940 F	1941 M	1941 F
All Causes	248	221	227	182
1. Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-	2	-
3. Scarlet fever	-	1	-	-
4. Whooping cough	-	1	1	-
5. Diphtheria	3	-	1	-
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	5	9	7
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	3	2	2	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	1	-	1	-
9. Influenza	8	3	1	1
10. Measles	2	1	1	-
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-	-	-
12. Acute infantile encephalitis	-	1	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity (Male) uterus (Female)	2	4	2	5
14. " " stomach and duodenum	8	5	7	5
15. " " breast	-	6	-	2
16. " " all other sites	11	11	17	6
17. Diabetes	1	3	-	1
18. Inter-cranial vascular lesions	24	27	23	25
19. Heart disease	60	63	48	48
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	2	8	4
21. Bronchitis	17	12	13	4
22. Pneumonia	15	17	13	4
23. Other respiratory diseases	5	2	-	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	4	2	7	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	1	-	1
26. Appendicitis	1	1	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases	5	6	2	5
28. Nephritis	11	5	4	11
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	-	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	2	-	5
31. Premature birth	10	6	9	2
32. Congenital malformity, birth injuries etc.	2	5	6	5
33. Suicide	3	-	-	-
34. Road traffic accidents	2	1	5	-
35. Other violent causes	7	2	9	3
36. All other causes	34	24	36	36

Deaths from the Principal Infectious Diseases.

	1940	1941
Measles	2	1
Whooping cough	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1
Smallpox	-	-
Scarlet fever	1	-
Diphtheria	3	1
Fever (enteric, typhus etc.)	-	-
Total	8	4

	YEAR. 1940	1941
Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 population	0.21	0.11
" " for the Administrative County	0.25	0.29

These rates are considerably below those of previous years and were it not for the deaths due to diphtheria, a preventable disease, would be even better still.

Infant Mortality Rate.

1940.

There were 40 deaths in infants under one year of age, which gave a low infant mortality rate of 59.1 deaths per 1,000 births.

1941.

There were 43 deaths which combined with a lower birth-rate gives and infant mortality rate of 66.9.

Infant Mortality Rate	Consett Urban District	59	66
" " "	Administrative County	63	70
" " "	England and Wales	55	59

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

Staff of the Public Health Department:-

(a) Medical Officer of Health,
John G. Walker, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Offices and duties:- Whole-time Medical Officer of Health for the joint areas of the Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural District Councils in accordance with the Memorandum on the duties of Medical Officers of Health and the Sanitary Officers Order 1935.

(b) Chief Sanitary Inspector:- F. Stringfellow.
Certificate of R.S.I. for Sanitary Inspectors.
Certificate of R.S.I. for Meat & Food Inspectors.

(c) Additional Sanitary Inspectors:-
H. Walton, Certificate of S.I.B. and Meat Certificate.
W. Telford, " " " " " "

(d) Shops Inspector:- R. P. Jope.

(e) Clerical Staff:-
Clerk - Miss P.E. Barrow.
Junior Clerk - W. Roberts (on Active Service)
" " (temporary) T. E. Hodgson.
Temporary Clerks - Civil Defence:-
Mrs. M. S. Ridley, Mr. W. L. Armstrong.

The Health Services available in the area are detailed in the report for 1938, to which reference should be made for further information.

Water Supply.

This is controlled by the Durham County Water Board and ample supplies have been available in 1940 and 1941. Numbers of samples taken for Bacteriological examination:-

	1940.	1941.
	5	7
Number of samples unsatisfactory	5	5

Appropriate steps were taken to remedy unsatisfactory supplies.

Emergency Supplies. A general survey of the area was made and possible emergency supplies noted.

Drainage & Sewerage.

During 1940 the new sewers and sewage works were completed, effecting a Public Health improvement of prime importance. Drainage from some 350 houses has already been dealt with as a result, which previously was very unsatisfactory. During 1941 these works were satisfactory, but considerable local trouble was caused by flooding, and in order to prevent a repetition several small alterations were made in various parts of the district.

Closet Accommodation.

	YEAR. 1940	1941
New water closets provided		
(a) in newly erected houses	103	4
(b) by privy conversions	7	-
The various types in the area are:-		
Water closets	9,780	9,784
Ash closets	609	609
Ashpit privies	495	495

Conversion work is at a standstill owing to present circumstances.

Public Cleansing.

This work is under the control of the Surveyor and is done partly by direct labour and partly by contract. House refuse is disposed of by tipping, and on the whole these tips are well supervised. During the past year the work has been complicated owing to the separate collection of salvage.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following are brief details of the work performed during 1940 and 1941:-

	1940.			1941.		
	Informal Notices	Formal Notices	Nuisances abated	Informal Notices	Formal Notices	Nuisances abated
Foul Conditions	3		3	1		1
Structural Defects	283	1	226	182		102
Overcrowding	218		111	2		2
Dairies & Milkshops	1		1	-		-
Cowsheds	17		13	22		19
Bakehouses	2		2	2		2
Slaughterhouses	10		10	-		-
Ashpits and Privies	22		14	9		9
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	15		15	11		11
Waterclosets	33		33	16		15
Defective Yard Paving	5		5	1		1
Drainage Faults	65		65	58		55
Water Supply	23		20	8		4
Pigsties	1		1	-		-
Animals Improperly Kept	1		1	1		1
Smoke Nuisances	-		-	1		1
Offensive Trades	2		2	-		-
Other Nuisances	1		1	1		1
	702	1	523	315	-	224

Precautions against Infectious Diseases.

	1940	1941
Houses visited following notifications -		
Disinfectants & Prophylactic material supplied	59	57
Infectious bedding dealt with	2	3
Library Books disinfected	17	71
Schools Disinfected	Nil	1
Respirators disinfected	17	Nil
Clothing, blankets etc. dealt with in connection with War Service	Nil	Nil

Factories Act.

Inspections made	42	25
Defects found and remedied	8	3

Shops Act, 1934.

Inspections made	40	42
Defects found and remedied -		
Defective drainage	1	7
Accumulation of refuse	2	4
No washing facilities	-	2
Additional W.C's provided	2	1
Defective W.C. renewed	1	-

Schools.

Closed on account of infectious diseases	-	-
Disinfected	-	1

Housing.

Since the outbreak of war housing work has gradually become more difficult. 103 houses were erected in 1940 and only 4 in 1941. The average for 1937/1940 was 220 houses per annum and the position is now a repetition of 1915/1918, and the loss of housing accommodation is unfortunate. The demand is as great as ever and it is apparent that many houses are occupied by two or more families.

New houses erected	103	4

Unfit Houses.

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	6	-
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2	-
Number of houses actually demolished	14	13
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	-	4

Overcrowding.

New cases discovered on inspection (due to increasing age of children)	23	-
Cases of overcrowding abated	111	2
Abated by removal to Council houses	56	2
" " ordinary removals of families	22	-
" " members of family removing	31	-
" " reconstruction of houses	2	-

Milk Supply.

Particulars of premises and persons registered under the Milk & Dairies Order 1926, and Milk Special Designations Order 1936, are as follows:-

	1940	1941
Cowkeepers	58	58
Farms registered as dairies	58	58
Other registered dairies	26	26
Wholesale producers only	18	16
Retail purveyors of milk in the area	89	67
" " " " from other areas	22	26
Accredited producers	15	15

Two dealers and one supplementary licence have been issued for the sale of Pasteurised Milk. No Tuberculin Tested Milk is produced in the area, but one dealer distributes this from an outside source.

Inspections made of various premises	101	123

The work of inspection is being continued as much as possible and any faults discovered are dealt with.

Meat & Other Foods.

Under the Defence (General) Regulations 1939 the Minister of Food took possession of premises in your Council's area for the purpose of Centralised Slaughtering. This covers supplies for both Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural Districts

Details of Animals Slaughtered:-

Bulls	48	52
Bullocks	518	409
Cows	501	458
Heifers	1,312	415
Calves	209	414
Pigs	2,082	1,109
Sheep	11,761	9,220
Total	16,431	12,077

100 per cent inspection was attained and every courtesy and assistance was given to us by the Slaughterhouse Manager (Mr. W. Stockton).

Of the total animals examined the following were classed as casualties:-

Cattle other than cows	9	23
Cows	32	43
Calves	19	22
Pigs	30	69
Sheep	50	55
Total	140	212

The attached tables give details of the total carcases etc. found to be unfit for human consumption.

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Total Carcases etc. found to be Unfit for Human Consumption during the year 1940

	CARCASES ETC				LUNGS			OX HEARTS	LIVERS			HEADS		PLUCKS		COWS UDDERS
	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Ox	Sheep	Pig		Ox	Sheep	Pigs	Ox	Pig	Sheep	Pig	
Tuberculosis	46 + 17 qrs			8	326		1	13	41		7	114	97		16	
Johne's Disease	3															
Actinobacillosis												3				
Pyrexia	2		3	4												
Pericarditis (Septic & Traumatic	1							4								
Septic Conditions	2 + 83 lbs		3	3					1					1		
Pneumonia					1		16							1		
Pleurisy			1 qr													
Pleurisy & Pneumonia			2													
Cirrhosis									540		75				37	
Cavernous Haemangioma									1							
Mastitis																3
Swine Erysipelas				1												
Swine Fever				1												
Oedema & Emaciation	2	1	15	1												
Parasites					7	44	9		3	5				47		
Dead, Moribund, Imperfect Bleeding etc.		1	11													
Traumatism	1 + 270 lbs	581bs	5 + 321bs	237 lbs												
Immaturity		12														
Decomposition.	25 lbs	1	2		1						3			11	5	
Totals	57 + 17 qrs + 378 lbs	15 + 581bs	41 + 1 qr + 321bs	18 + 237 lbs	335	44	26	17	586	5	85	117	97	60	58	3

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Total Carcases etc. found to be unfit for Human Consumption during the year 1941

	Carcases etc.				Lungs			Ox Hearts	Livers			Heads		Plucks		Cows Udders
	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Ox	Sheep	Pig		Ox	Sheep	Pig	Ox	Pig	Sheep	Pig	
Tuberculosis	53 + 18 qrs	2		3	299			29	30			99	58		9	6
Johne's Disease	10															
Actinobacillosis												1				
Pyrexia				2												
Pericarditis (Septic & Traumatic)	3															
Septic Conditions	6	5	11	2												
Pneumonia						8	1							10	6	
Cirrhosis									231	59	19					
Cavernous Haemangioma									6							
Lymphadenoma			1													
Oedema & Emaciation			16	2												
Parasites										16				28		
Dead, Moribund, Imperfect bleeding etc.	2		9	3												
Traumatism	2 + 180 lbs	18 lbs	2 + 45 lbs	100 lbs												
Immaturity		6														
Decomposition			1		1	3									1	
Totals	76 + 18 qrs + 180 lbs	13 + 18 lbs	40 + 45 lbs	12 + 135 lbs	300	11	1	29	267	75	19	100	58	38	16	6

	1940.	1941.
Tuberculosis Order 1938.		
In addition to other inspections cows were sent in for slaughter by the Ministry of Agriculture Inspectors under the Tuberculosis Order 1938	17	8
Imported Meat.		
The approximate number of carcases etc. distributed to the trade were:-		
Quarters of Beef	3,803	3,662
Sheep & Lambs	17,800	19,568
Pigs	188	467
Corned Beef (Tins)	-	157
Private Slaughtering for home consumption under licence from the Ministry of Food:-		
Pigs	20	50
Other Foods.		
The following foods were found to be unwholesome, chiefly at retailers premises:-		
Rabbits	60	-
Pigs Heads (Cask)	(lbs) 224	-
Butter	" 27	16
Imported Eggs	56	844
Bacon	(lbs) 131	-
Hams	" 23	-
Tongue	" 198	-
Ham Roll	" 90	-
Ham & Tongue Roll	" -	60
Boiled Beef	" 18	-
Curried Mutton	" 2	-
Brawn	" 6	-
Corned Beef	" -	30
Fish Roll	" -	14
Salmon & Anchovy Paste	" -	6
Other Meats	" -	54
Condensed Milk	tins -	13
Cheese Cuttings	(lbs) -	5

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

General (1940) There were 1,586 notifications of infectious diseases (Excluding tuberculosis) during the year, 1,243 of these being measles. Apart from this epidemic the other notable features were the great decrease in the incidence of both scarlet fever and diphtheria, and an outbreak of para-typhoid fever. The last named caused 47 cases in this district and cases in other areas also. It was due to infected food-stuff consumed at a wedding function and was quickly brough under control.

Year 1941. There were less than half the notifications this year 609 cases, largely due to the fall off in measles notifications. The diphtheria notifications rose from 10 to 18 but 8 of these were imported by non-residents into an Emergency Hospital in the area, so the low figure in the resident population was maintained. The following table gives further details:-

Disease.	1940			1941		
	Cases notified.	Admtd to Hospital	Deaths	Cases Notified	Admtd to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	28	14	1	47	32	-
Diphtheria	10	10	3	18	18	1
Erysipelas	5	-	-	10	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	4	-	2	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	3	2	7	5	-
Pneumonia	43	-	32	27	3	17
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	-	2	1	-
Measles	1,243	13	2	376	3	1
Whooping Cough	196	-	1	120	-	1
Para-typhoid Fever	47	47	-	-	-	-

Diphtheria Immunisation.	1940.	1941.
Children under 5 years of age who completed treatment	20	377
Children over 5 years and under 15 years who completed treatment	33	582

Owing to the heavy pressure of Civil Defence work in 1940 it was not possible to make the progress of the two previous years in this work. Following the appeal by the Ministry of Health for Diphtheria Immunisation to be intensified, further efforts were made with satisfactory results and progress is being well maintained during 1942. Special efforts are being made to increase the numbers of children in the 1 to 5 years age group, and these are meeting with success.

The estimated number of children under 15 years in the Consett Urban District is 10, 200:- Under 5 years of age - 3,100, Over 5 and under 15 years of age - 7,100.

Since Diphtheria Immunisation commenced in this area the numbers of children treated by two doses of Alum Precipitated Toxoid are to the end of 1941:-

(a) Under 5 years of age 972
(b) Over 5 and under 15 years of age 5,021

= approximately 58.7 per cent of children under 15 years.